

How can I obtain LinGRO?

Area businesses have LinGRO available in bulk quantities. Contact the Recycling Hotline at 402-441-8215 for the retailer nearest you.

Businesses and individuals may obtain LinGRO directly from the City’s Solid Waste Operations Division at 402-441-8102. There is a fee of \$10 per cubic yard for LinGRO plus delivery and sales tax. The delivery fee is \$65 per dump truck load in Lancaster County.

Compost testing:

When the compost has completed the composting process a field test is conducted on each windrow of compost. If the compost passes this test, samples are sent to an independent lab that analyzes nutrient and heavy metal content of the compost as well as its biological and physical properties. A city lab conducts a seed germination test and the UNL Horticulture Department conducts bioassays on the compost to insure that no chemical damage occurs using the compost. LinGRO compost must pass these tests prior to public distribution of the material. Test results are available on our website.


Questions? Call 402-441-7043  
lincoln.ne.gov keyword: compost


The City of Lincoln does not warrant, expressly or implied, the final quality of LinGRO Compost, its merchantability, or its fitness for any particular purpose.

Resources:

Compost Use Instructions and Field Guide to Compost Use. United States Compost Council. [www.compostingcouncil.org/compostuse-instructions](http://www.compostingcouncil.org/compostuse-instructions) (on-line publication)

Innovative Uses of Compost: Erosion Control, Turf Remediation, and Landscaping. United States Environmental Protection Agency. 1997. EPA 530-F-043





**Lincoln's Premium Organic Compost**

*A Guide for Landscaping with Compost*

What is LinGRO compost?

LinGRO is organic compost produced primarily from grass clippings, leaves and woodchips. Compost is a humus-like material that looks like dark topsoil and is free of debris. It has an earthy aroma and is high in organic matter and other nutrients such as phosphorus and potassium. LinGRO is screened to produce a product of uniform particle size. It generally has the following characteristics on a dry weight basis:

Total Nitrogen (N): 1.2 - 3.3%  
Phosphorus (P): 0.2 - 0.4%  
Potassium (K): 1.0 - 2.1%  
pH: 7.5 - 8.4

Why use LinGRO compost?

LinGRO will improve the health of the soil and its structure. Beneficial microbes in compost feed off nutrients and hold back soil diseases. Compost decreases the bulk density of the topsoil and increases moisture retention in soil. Using LinGRO as a top dressing for lawns will improve soil fertility and water infiltration. LinGRO can help save money by reducing the need for fertilizers and pesticides, and it helps prevent the erosion of valuable nutrient-rich topsoil.

Plants will benefit from healthy soils. LinGRO promotes increased root and leaf development and flower, fruit or vegetable production.





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Solid Waste Operations  
Public Works & Utilities Department  
City of Lincoln

The composting process is managed to ensure that the end product is of the highest quality. The monitoring process uses current technology. Temperature, oxygen and moisture levels are monitored weekly to make informed decisions on managing the organic material.

LinGRO is sampled and tested by an independent laboratory for nutrients, heavy metals and chemical contaminants. This testing assures that LinGRO meets professional composting standards. LinGRO is a high-quality product with positive biological, physical and chemical properties. Test results for LinGRO are available upon request or may be viewed at [lincoln.ne.gov](http://lincoln.ne.gov) (keyword: compost).

COMPOST USES

- 1. Blending topsoil
- 2. Establishing new lawns
- 3. Top dressing
- 4. Improving clay soil
- 5. Sod production
- 6. Tree and shrub planting
- 7. Flower and vegetable gardens
- 8. Forestry/nurseries
- 9. Erosion control





## Know your landscape needs

When designing or installing a landscape plan, it is important to determine the health of the soil and identify the need for any soil amendments. Soil tests are a useful tool to understanding the best application rate and characteristics of the soil. The application rates outlined in this brochure may need to be adjusted based on the characteristics of your soil. Lancaster County Extension will provide a soil testing kit and analysis for a small fee. This test will determine the levels of pH, lime, phosphorous, potassium and organic matter in your soil. Call the Lancaster County Extension office at 402-441-7180 for more information on soil tests.

## Blended topsoil/establishing new lawns

When making blended topsoil, the recommended mixture is one part compost mixed with four parts soil. To establish a new lawn, apply one inch of LinGRO to the topsoil, and mix thoroughly within the subsoil. It is recommended that clay soils be rototilled prior to adding LinGRO. One cubic yard of compost will cover a 325 square foot area at a depth of one inch.

For athletic fields and large open spaces, apply compost at a rate of 135 cubic yards per acre for a one-inch layer of compost.

## Top dressing lawns

United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) research shows that compost can suppress common turf diseases and reduce the need for fungicides. Aerate the lawn and spread LinGRO compost about 1/8 inch to 1/4 inch deep, and water thoroughly. One cubic yard of LinGRO compost will cover a 1,296 square foot area at a depth of 1/4 inch (2,592 square feet @ 1/8 inch).

## Improving clay soils

Lincoln and Lancaster County have a high percentage of clay soils. Applying LinGRO to clay soils will improve the porosity, water holding capacity, and nutrient content, and add beneficial microorganisms to the soil. LinGRO will improve the structure of clay soils to encourage plant growth. Application rates depend on the amount of clay in the soil and the soil's characteristics.

## Sod production

LinGRO may be used to improve water retention in new sod. Compost will also decrease the bulk density of the underlying soil, which helps establish plant growth. According to the EPA, using compost should reduce the need for fertilizers. However, nutrients may need to be applied depending on the characteristics of your soil.

## Tree and shrub planting

Apply one to two inches of LinGRO on the surface of the ground in a radius not to exceed the drip line of the plant. For best results, aerate prior to application, or mix in with soil from the hole for planting the tree or shrub.

## Flower and vegetable gardens

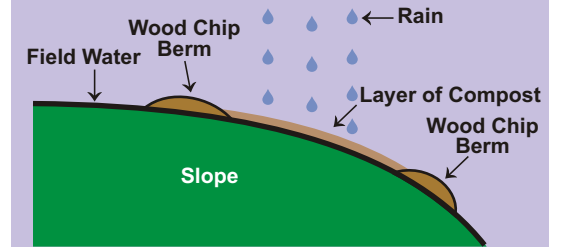
LinGRO may be used to enrich the soil in flower and vegetable gardens. Apply a one-inch layer of LinGRO over the entire garden area and till into six inches of soil. LinGRO may also be used to amend the soil and increase infiltration rates in rain gardens. Application rates depend on infiltration rate and the soil's characteristics. An infiltration test can help determine what amendments are needed.

## Forestry/nurseries

Using compost in tree nurseries can enhance tree growth. According to the U.S. Composting Council, nursery fields amended with compost can produce a higher quality plant in a shorter amount of time. LinGRO will reduce soil erosion, add organic matter and nutrients to soil, and retain more water in the soil. Add fertilizers and make pH adjustments as necessary when applying LinGRO. The application rate will vary depending on your soil characteristics. The U.S. Composting Council says successful application rates for nurseries may range from one-half to four inches. Disking the field or tillage is recommended prior to application. Till LinGRO into the soil at a rate of six to ten inches for a one- to two-inch application (12 to 14 inches for thicker layers).

## Erosion control

LinGRO promotes the establishment of vegetation through the work of added nutrients and microorganisms. The woodchips in LinGRO help to stabilize slopes and improve soil structure more effectively than other forms of mulch. LinGRO will promote the development of plant growth, which enhances bank stabilization.



Apply a two-inch layer of LinGRO directly on the soil of the slope. For steeper slopes, a small berm or mound of wood chips at the top and bottom of the slope may help to slow quick moving water and prevent the runoff of nutrient-rich soil.

LINGRO COMPOST WAS USED IN THE RENOVATION OF LINCOLN'S SUNKEN GARDENS.

